UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/435
S/1995/793
14 September 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Item 81 of the provisional agenda*
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 14 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Kiro Gligorov, on 14 September 1995, concerning the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Macedonia and the United States of America and the signing of the Interim Accord between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Greece.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 81 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Denko MALESKI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Macedonia to the
United Nations

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ANNEX

Statement issued by the President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 14 September 1995 concerning the establishment of diplomatic relations between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United States of America and the signing of the Interim Accord between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece

Yesterday, we established full diplomatic relations with the United States of America. This act definitely finalizes the relations and cooperation between the Republic of Macedonia and the United States of America, which is of great significance not only for our country but for the wider stability in the south of the Balkans as well. Thus, the traditionally friendly relations between our two countries, the support extended by the United States in the past year for the independence of the Republic of Macedonia, the support for our membership in the United Nations as well as the participation of United States troops within the forces of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) in the Republic of Macedonia have gained yet another strong verification. By establishing diplomatic relations at the level of embassies, the perspectives of our mutual cooperation initiated earlier, when the United States of America recognized the Republic of Macedonia, now stand on truly firm foundations.

The establishment of diplomatic relations precedes the Accord reached between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Greece in New York yesterday. The American initiative and direct engagement in the signing of this Accord is also a confirmation of the common American-Macedonian interest for peace and stability in the south of the Balkans and for enhancing the international position of the Republic of Macedonia. This is why, on this occasion, I wish to assert that the Republic of Macedonia has achieved success in its peaceful policy, in the principles of political dialogue for resolving unsettled issues with its neighbours, in realizing human and minority rights in accordance with international standards, in the principles for Europization of the Balkans and in the protection of its own national interests and aims.

In this context, we have confirmed our long-term orientation for developing good-neighbourly relations with all of our neighbours on the principles of the inviolability of borders by way of force, the free flow of people, goods and ideas and the development of comprehensive cooperation in all fields. And, despite the fact that in the past four years it was not seldom that we were the victims of historical prejudices of some policies led on the Balkans, we have proved that we are capable of enduring, as a State and as a people, with authentic national and cultural identity, with deep historical roots and our own contribution to European culture and civilization. Because of this fact, our independence could not be challenged - not by economic blockades and not by various attempts to ignore our country or to revive the anachronistic activities on the Balkans from the beginning of this century. I am pleased to note that somewhat sooner or somewhat later, this fact was also recognized and accepted by our neighbours as a reality requirement. This is why I salute the realistic demeanour the Republic of Greece has shown by signing the Accord. Allow me to reiterate what I have often said - that Macedonian-Greek relations provide

prospects in the interest of the two peoples and of peace and good-neighbourly relations and cooperation among all Balkan peoples.

Now it is especially important to show good will, readiness and fair demeanour in the implementation of this Accord. Time can prove this act a turning-point for the future of the Balkans.